

## **ISAT Delivery by Data Recognition Corporation Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Were we required to change testing companies?**

Idaho State purchasing rules require agencies to competitively re-bid contracts periodically. To meet these requirements, we had to issue an RFP and evaluate the proposals sent in response to the RFP. The decision to hire DRC is based upon the process described in question 2 below.

**2. How was DRC selected?**

The proposals, in response to Idaho's Request for Proposal (RFP), were reviewed first by the Division of Purchasing for responsiveness and then forwarded to the State Board of Education. Only DRC's proposal was determined to be responsive by the Division of Purchasing. An expert panel of educators from Idaho and educators with national perspectives on state large-scale assessment, special student populations, and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was assembled and reviewed the DRC proposal based upon the criteria specified in the RFP.

No Idaho State Department of Education or Idaho State Board of Education employee or Board member rated the proposals for either responsiveness or technical quality in the evaluation process. In other words, all of the ratings came from an equal number of Idaho and nationally recognized educators.

The budget proposal was considered only after the technical review was complete (as per Division of Purchasing) and was determined to be within the appropriate budget range for the required elements of the ISAT. Though the DRC proposal was the only proposal moved forward for technical and budget review, it met all of the criteria successfully within the time line established. It was determined early in the process, based upon expert legal advice, that even if only one responsive bid was submitted in the period specified by the RFP, that proposal could be selected based upon the formal review and rating.

**3. Will the ISAT become a paper/pencil test?**

No. The ISAT will continue to be administered via the computer.

**4. What experience does DRC have with delivering tests on the computer?**

DRC will be working with Computerized Assessments and Learning (CAL) at the University of Kansas to deliver the test. CAL has been delivering an assessment on the computer for the State of Kansas for the past five years and has an exemplary record for doing so.

**5. Will we still have the fall adaptive test to continue to monitor student growth?**

Yes. Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) will deliver the Fall 2006 assessment. There is an overlap of the NWEA and DRC contracts that makes this possible. It is the intent of the Idaho State Board of Education that an adaptive test will be administered in the Fall of 2007 and in subsequent years by DRC for the life of their contract.

- 6. Is DRC really able to deliver an adaptive test?**  
Yes. Working with CAL, DRC will deliver an adaptive test. CAL has experience in delivering an adaptive test in Kansas and has the technology configuration and capacity to do so.
- 7. Are we moving to a norm-referenced test?**  
No. The ISAT will continue to be a criterion-referenced test, aligned to our Idaho Content Standards.
- 8. Will there be a demo of the test available before the 2007 Spring Test?**  
Yes. The first “demo” opportunity will be for a “one time” fall pilot of items written this summer under the direction of DRC.
- 9. Will scores still be reported as RIT scores?**  
Yes. Scores will continue to be reported based upon the Rasch methodology, and the graduation requirement will be phased in so that students graduating in the class of 2007 may meet the graduation requirement by scoring slightly lower than those graduating in 2008.
- 10. Will the testing still provide growth data?**  
Yes. Since the adaptive testing will continue, growth data can still be reported. Equating will be done so that the resulting data will be comparable to the data currently being reported.
- 11. How will the new testing company format the test?**  
The format is being developed, but ISAT will continue to be a multiple choice test delivered via the computer. Our hope is to improve formatting, where possible, based upon what we have learned.
- 12. How will the testing window be scheduled?**  
The windows for testing will be set in response to what is appropriate for Idaho schools and districts, as in the past.
- 13. How long is the contract?**  
The contract is for four years, with the option of renewal for three additional years.
- 14. Why do we have both a fall and a spring test?**  
The fall and spring tests are different indicators. The fall test is adaptive, and used for measuring growth. The spring test is intended to show student performance level (advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic). We receive federal funding based upon the use of the spring, on grade level, test. The fall adaptive test is included, because districts appreciate the growth data it provides.

In addition to the questions above, we have had a number of inquiries about scheduling issues like the timing of the fall and winter tests, refresher workshops, and item writing. As the details are worked out during the transition between NWEA and DRC, we will do our best to keep you informed. Please continue to check this website or email questions to [accountability@osbe.idaho.gov](mailto:accountability@osbe.idaho.gov).